

January 15, 2001

U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
Dockets Management Branch  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

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One Seaport Plaza  
35<sup>th</sup> floor  
New York, NY 10292

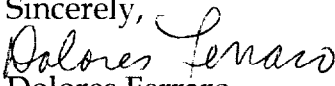
Dear USFDA:

I am writing to urge you to approve docket number 98P-0151/CP1, which would prohibit the slaughter of downed animals. Any animal that is too sick or injured to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. There is no humane way to move downed animals, and so they should be humane euthanized in the stockyards. Right now, they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains, forced to endure the pain and suffering of broken bones, bruises, and torn ligaments.

There is also the safety issue of allowing sick or injured animals to be used for human consumption. This would be one step toward preventing diseases such as Mad Cow Disease from entering our food supply. An animal that is sick or injured will have some kind of infection, bacterial disease, etc, and to take the risk of that disease infecting humans is irresponsible.

Since downed animals represent a tiny percentage of animals slaughtered for meat, this will not have a sizable financial impact on the meat industry. In fact, they should want to comply with any regulations that will increase the safety of the meat supply. Also, if this petition is approved, the meat suppliers will have an incentive for taking better care and handling of their animals.

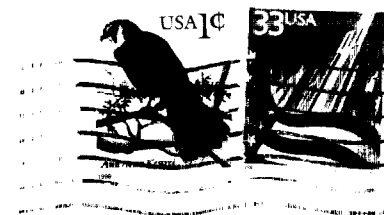
As an agency that protects consumers, I ask that you support docket number 98P-0151/CP1.

Sincerely,  
  
Dolores Ferraro

C 3499

98P-0151

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